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## **The Cultural Society**

**presents**



**Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007**

**6:30 – 9:00 PM**

**A Dazzling Array of Performances ...**



### **Cultural Society Advisors**

Mrs. Monaz Chitroda  
Mr. Jeffrey Hsi

### **Cultural Society Officers**

Ketan Panchal	President
Andrea Chong	Vice President
Amanda Aponte	Treasurer
Danielle Cherubin	Secretary

### **Special Thanks to ...**

Chinese Center of Long Island  
Taipei Cultural Center of NY  
Great Neck South H.S.  
Dr. Thomas Ganes  
Patty Chow  
Mrs. Ellen Hsi  
Mr. Ross Lipsky  
Ms. Nell Landman  
Jonathan Topol  
Stage Crew  
Falcon Report Crew

## *Chinese Lion Dance*

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Chinese Lion Dance goes back some one thousand years. The lions express joy and happiness. From the fourth day to the fifteenth of the New Year, lion dance groups would tour from village to village in traditional China. Both lions and dragons figure in New Year's Parades and other celebrations throughout the year.

The Lion Dance also plays an important role in the consecration of temples and other building, at business openings, planting and harvest times, official celebrations, and religious rites.

**Performed By:** Ryan Ahuja, Marc Benison, Kevin Caballes, Nick Chong, Justin Gamba, Michael Hung, Mohammed Khan, Alex Louissaint, Ketan Panchal, Leslie Malcolm Sharpes, Chris Soler, Aamir Waheed

**Choreographed By:** Randy Yung



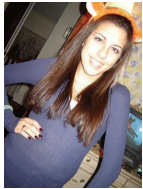
# Modern Ballet

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Ballet is best known for its unique features and techniques, such as pointe work, turn-out of the legs, and high extensions; its graceful, flowing, precise movements; and its ethereal qualities. The art of ballet did not emerge until the late 1400's in Italy. Italy began the ballet tradition, but it was the French that enabled it to blossom. Incorporating aspects of Italian ballet, French ballet gained prominence and influenced the dance genre internationally. To this day, the majority of ballet vocabulary originates from French.

## Performed and Choreographed By:

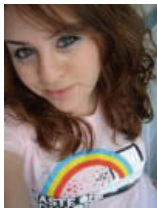
Alison Devine



Ryan Hevia



Gena Novelli



Amanda Servian



# Letter from the President

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Friends of the Cultural Society,

Welcome to the Cultural Society's final event of our very first year. World Culture Night is the culmination of months of hard work and effort by diligent Cultural Society members. Members have been specially trained in Chinese lion dancing, salsa, Punjabi bhangra, and various other ethnic traditions in anticipation of tonight's show. Working with dance choreographers and directors, innumerable South students have cultivated an interest for other cultures immensely.

As a club, we would like to thank our advisors, Mr. Jeffrey Hsi and Mrs. Monaz Chitroda, for all of their hard work and dedication to the society. We would also like to thank Mrs. Ellen Hsi, the wife of our advisor for the many hours she has given on Saturdays to teach our members. On behalf of the Cultural Society, I wish to thank the many parents who have put up with our practice and rehearsal demands, and finally the students themselves, who have worked very hard to make tonight a success. Enjoy the show!

Warm Regards,

Ketan Panchal  
President



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## African Dance

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Africans dance in all sorts of occasions to express their inner feelings, whether of joy or of sorrow. While the dancing is spontaneous and voluntary, the drumbeat provides the rhythm that holds the dancers together.

In villages throughout the continent, the sound and the rhythm of the drum express the mood of the people. The drum is the sign of life; its beat is the heartbeat of the community. Such is the power of the drum to evoke emotions, to touch the souls of those who hear its rhythms.

**Performed By:** Taniesha Allen, Farah Jean-Baptiste, Jaelyn Jones, Danielle Pile, Sarah Zaman

**Choreographed By:** Taniesha Allen



## Chinese Fan Dance

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Chinese Fan Dance is one type of art that represents Chinese traditional culture. It is a graceful and elegant dance that shows off the beauty of the fluttering fans. The fans are skillfully used to portray illusions of flowers and waves. By stringing together simple moves in complex formations, the soft fan dance is a beauty. It normally appears with dancing and singing together. It is known for its beautiful and delicate poses.

**Performed By:** Andrea Chong, Stephanie Farkash, Carolyn Hung, Stephanie Jogie, Amanda Lou, Becky Topol, Felyn Wolkowicki

**Choreographed By:** Alanna Chan, Donna Chan, Barbara Loo

## American Rock

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American Rock is a catch-all for rock music genres either originating in the United States or specific to the Americas. Most often they contain elements of rhythm and blues, though a blending of styles over the years has occurred. American Rock music has had great success over the second half of the 20th century, with most of its recognizable success during the 50's, 80's, and 90's.

Jimi Hendrix is recognized as one of the greatest and most influential guitarists in rock music history. He headlined the iconic 1969 Woodstock Festival before his death in 1970, at the age of 27. Hendrix pioneered the technique of guitar feedback with overdriven amplifiers, incorporating into his music what was previously an undesirable sound.

**Performed By:** Mr. Steve Laquidara



# Dandiya

Dandiya-Raas and Garba are the featured dances of Navratri evenings in Western India, originating in Gujarat. Navratri is the longest Hindu festival celebrated all over India for nine consecutive nights in praise of Lord Rama and Goddess Durga from the end of September to early October.

The Dandiya dance originated as devotional Garba dances, which were performed in Durga's honor. This dance form is actually the staging of a mock-fight between the Goddess and Mahishasura, the mighty demon-king, and is nicknamed "The Sword Dance". The sticks of the dance represent the sword of Durga. The dancers whirl and move their feet and arms in a choreographed manner to the tune of the music with lots of drum beats.

**Performed By:** Amanda Aponte, Erika Betancourt, Andrea Chong, Ben Costabile, Jennifer Hillman, Christina Lalama, Michael Leshansky, Ketan Panchal, Chris Soler, Junaid Vali

## Choreographed By:

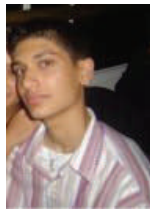
Saba Kabir



Ms. Monaz Chitroda



Ketan Panchal



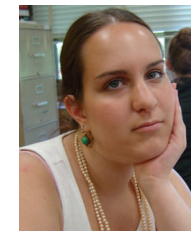
# Irish Step

Irish Step Dance, when performed as a solo dance, is generally characterized by a stiff upper body and quick and precise movements of the feet. Stepdancing as a modern form is descended directly from sean nós ("old style") stepdancing.

There are several different forms of stepdancing in Ireland (such as the Connemara style stepdancing), but the style most familiar is the Munster, or southern form, which has been formalised by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha—the Irish Dancing Commission.

**Performed By:** Ali Weiner, Gabby Weiner

**Choreographed By:** Ali Weiner



# Tinikling

Tinikling is a Filipino folk dance, often dubbed the Philippine National Dance. The dance originated in Leyte as an imitation of the legendarily fast and graceful movements of the tikling birds as they dodged bamboo traps set by rice farmers.

An alternative explanation says that the dance originated from Spanish colonization, where field workers who worked too slowly were punished by having to stand in place and jump over two bamboo poles clapped together against their ankles; it is said that from a distance the jumping workers looked like tikling birds.

**Performed By:** Jillian Borja, Gabrielle Cohen, Justin Gamba, Patrick Kalaw, Amanda Lou, Mariegold Namoca, Ruby Namoca, Anthony Padua, Aamir Waheed

## Choreographed By:

Gabrielle Cohen



Amanda Lou



Ruby Namoca



# Stepping

Step dance is the generic term for dance styles where the footwork is the most important part of the dance. Body and arm movements and styling are either restricted or considered irrelevant. Step dance is one end of a spectrum of dance styles.

One form of step dancing, Stepping, has been popularized by National Pan-Hellenic Council and National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations member organizations. This step dance has African roots and is an African American tradition, as well as part of Black History.

**Performed By:** Taniesha Allen, Ayesha Alvi, Binish Anjum, JohnJay Lindo, Amanda Lou, Mariegold Namoca, Ruby Namoca, Lauren Spriggs, Cecelia Zhang

## Choreographed By:

Amanda Lou



JohnJay Lindo





## Soca Dance

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Soca Dance is based on soul calypso music that originated in Trinidad. It combines the melodic lilting sound of calypso (based on the original Steel Pan) with insistent (usually electronic) percussion. Soca music has evolved in the last 20 years primarily by musicians from Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana, and the Lesser Antilles.

**Performed By:** Taniesha Allen, Farah Jean-Baptiste, Jaelyn Jones, Danielle Pile, Sarah Zaman

**Choreographed By:** Jaelyn Jones



## French Opera

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Opera is a form of theatre in which the drama is conveyed wholly or predominantly through music and singing. Opera emerged in Italy around the year 1600 and is generally associated with the Western classical music tradition. Opera uses many of the elements of spoken theatre such as scenery, costumes, and acting.

Generally, however, opera is distinguished from other dramatic forms by the importance of song and conventions of vocal technique. The singers are accompanied by a musical ensemble ranging from a small instrumental ensemble to a full symphonic orchestra. Opera may also incorporate dance; this was especially true of French opera for much of its history.

**Performed and Choreographed By:**

Katie Golan





## Cultural Fashion Show

Fashion is a term that can be found anywhere in the world. It represents different cultures, locations, and people. The wardrobe in tonight's program may be seen as costumes; however they can represent daily wear in other places. As Coco Chanel once said, "Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening." Though trends may be changing at a rapid pace, some pieces of clothing remain with the cultures that crafted them.

**Models:** Ryan Ahuja, Ayesha Alvi, Amanda Aponte, Bridget Charles, Andrea Chong, Christina Classi, Samantha Feaser, Christina Gerasimovich, Jen Hillman, Mr. Jeffrey Hsi, Alexa Kaplan, Mohammed Khan, Kristine Lee, Michael Leshansky, Christina Lalama, Chris McCann, Resham Mahtani, Connie Mottola, Christian O'Brian, Jessica Pak, Christine Rai, Evelyn Ramirez, Jeewandeep Singh, Becky Topol, Junaid Vali, Angela Yeh, Namrah Zaman, Sarah Zaman

### Choreographed By:

Jessica Vuong



Anam Khan



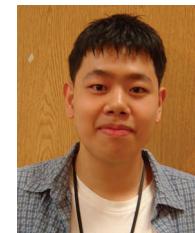
## Tae Kwon Do

Tae Kwon Do is a martial and combat sport originating in Korea. Having become one of the most widely practiced martial arts in the world, it is the national sport of Korea and one form of sparring, *shihap kyeorugi*, is an Olympic sporting event.

Despite martial arts movies being seemingly dominated by Japanese and Chinese martial arts, tae kwon do is actually one of the most popular martial arts employed in film, largely because of the impressive kicking techniques used in tae kwon do. Tae kwon do is also fairly common among fighting video games.

**Performed By:** Jason Chung, Brandon Weber, Dina Errico, Amanda Errico, Rachel Sebold, Seongjun Park, Scott Tracey, Amanda Tunkel, Jessica Hanna, Kate Brodsky, James Hahn, Kristi Ryu, Samantha Errico, Danielle Sebold

### Choreographed By: Jason Chung



# Salsa

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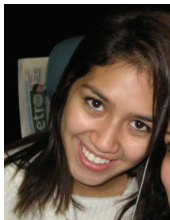
Salsa is a fusion of informal dance styles having roots from Cuba, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Salsa, typically a partner dance, can be done solo or with a frequent exchange of partner. Improvisation is an integral part of salsa, as it is a very interpretative dance.

Modern Salsa has elements of Jazz, Funk, Reggae, Hip-hop, and Samba. The name "Salsa" is the Spanish word for sauce, connoting a spicy flavor. The Salsa aesthetic is extremely flirtatious and sensuous.

**Performed By:** Asma Alvi, Veronica Bohorquez, Edwin Candelaria, Andrea Chong, Ben Costabile, Chetram Deochand, Christina Gerasimovich, Jonathan Gil, Estefania Martinez, Anthony Orlich, Evelyn Ramirez, Chris Soler, Nathaniel Ward, Cecilia Zhang

## Choreographed By:

Evelyn Ramirez   Estefania Martinez   Edwin Candelaria



# Hawaiian Fire Staff

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Fire twirling, or fire dancing, really began in New Zealand. The native Maori people spun poi - small balls of brightly-colored cloth on the ends of pieces of rope - as a part of their traditional kapa haka performances.

Other tools, including knives, clubs, and staffs, had long been a part of Hawaiian hula and luau performances, but it is believed that poi were the first such items to be set on fire. Hawaiian hulas were considered to be sacred prayers, usually to deities like the powerful volcano goddess, Pele.

## Choreographed and Performed by:

Becky Topol



## Hebrew Rock

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Jewish music is quite diverse and dates back thousands of years. The music varies greatly depending on origins, dating back to the Temple music from Biblical times. The earliest synagogue music was based on the same system as that used in the Temple in Jerusalem. According to the Mishna, the regular Temple orchestra consisted of twelve instruments, and the choir of twelve male singers.

**Performed By:** Third Fault (Nathaniel Ward, Steve Trachtenberg, Noah Moskowitz)

Nathaniel Ward

Steve Trachtenberg



## Bollywood Dance

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The dancing in Bollywood films, especially older ones, is primarily modeled on traditional Indian dance. In modern films, Indian dance elements often blend with Western dance styles. The hero or heroine will often perform with a troupe of supporting dancers.

Songs typically comment on the action taking place in the movie, in several ways. Sometimes, a song is worked into the plot, so that a character has a reason to sing; other times, a song is an externalization of a character's thoughts, or presages an event that has not occurred yet in the plot of the movie.

**Performed By:** Ryan Ahuja, Ayesha Alvi, Dimple Chhatlani, Resham Mahtani, Jeewandeep Singh, Chris Soler, Lauren Spriggs, Fatima Vali, Aamir Waheed

**Choreographed By:**

Jeewandeep Singh

Dimple Chhatlani



## Chinese Ribbon

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Chinese ribbon Dance emerged during the Tang Dynasty because the emperor once dreamed of a palace where he was surrounded by beautiful dancing fairies in colorful flowing robes. This dream turned into a command for a dance with spectacular displays of long silk ribbons to make his dream come alive.

The traditional Chinese ribbon dance, once performed only for royalty, is now popular among all audiences for its grace and beauty. These silk dancing ribbons can be beautiful when they float and undulate through the air.

**Performed By:** Bridget Charles, Christina Classi, Samantha Feaser, Anam Khan, Christina Lalama, Kathleen Lim, Olivia Sciacca

**Choreographed By:** Ellen Hsi, Rachel Chow, Barbara Loo

## Indian Hip Hop

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Hip hop is both a music genre and a cultural movement developed in urban communities starting in the 1970s, predominantly by African Americans. Coinage of the term *hip hop* is often credited to Keith Cowboy, a rapper with Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five.

Since first emerging in New York City in the 1970s, hip hop has grown to encompass an entire lifestyle that consistently incorporates diverse elements of ethnicity, technology, art and urban life. It has spread to many cultures and has taken on forms that reflect the culture of the performer such as in tonight's Indian Hip Hop dance.

**Performed and Choreographed By:** Daryl Agpalo, Riaz Bacchus, Dimple Chhatlani, Mr. Jeffrey Hsi, Saba Kabir, Sara Kabir, James Pabelonia, Cecilia Zhang

Saba Kabir



Sara Kabir

